



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Southern District of Georgia

Post Office Box 8970

100 Bull Street

Savannah, GA 31412
(912) 652-4422

Savannah, GA 31401
FAX (912) 652-4471

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2003

Contact: Dan Drake
(912) 201 2669

Former Castleberry Manager Pleads Guilty to Federal Wire Fraud and Income Tax Charges

SAVANNAH: Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that defendant **MARTIN W. BROWN** pled guilty in U.S. District Court in Augusta to federal charges of wire fraud and income tax evasion on October 31, 2003. BROWN, of Atlanta, Georgia, appeared before U.S. District Chief Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., and entered his guilty plea to one count of wire fraud and four counts of income tax evasion in violation of 18 United States Code Section 1343 and 26 United States Code Section 7201.

At the guilty plea hearing, evidence showed that BROWN, a former trucking manager employed by Castleberry/Snow Brand's, Inc. ("Castleberry"), defrauded his then employer and the Ryder company, with which Castleberry contracted for transportation services, by cashing more than \$500,000 worth of "Comchecks," a type of money order that Ryder provided for the occasional use of Castleberry truck drivers to obtain relatively small amounts of emergency travel funds. BROWN misused his supervisory position to obtain approval, by interstate telephone calls, for the Comchecks cashed for his personal benefit, at locations in Georgia and South Carolina. BROWN prepared false invoices that supported the amount of reimbursement between Castleberry and Ryder for the

Comchecks BROWN cashed.

Wire fraud is punishable by a maximum of five years in prison, a maximum \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release of not more than three years, and a \$100 special assessment. Income tax evasion is punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment, a maximum \$100,000 fine, a term of supervised release of not more than three years, and a \$100 special assessment.

BROWN will appear in district court for sentencing at a later date. Mr. Thompson praised the efforts of case investigators Joel Ozburn of the Internal Revenue Service, and Anthony DePrizio of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Representing the government in this case is Lee H. Little, Assistant United States Attorney, of Augusta.

XXXXX

20-03